

CLAIMS

[1] An information recording medium having a first recording area and a second recording area,

wherein, the followings are recorded in the first recording
5 area: first content information; first management information concerning handling of the first content information; and first copyright-related information for placing a copyright restriction on the first content information, and

the followings are recorded in the second recording area:
10 second content information; and second management information including second copyright-related information for placing a copyright restriction on the second content information,

the respective first content information and second content information are the same in contents but different in attributes,

15 the second management information includes: link information indicating a relationship between the first content information and the second content information; and a copyright-compliant flag, and

the copyright-compliant flag indicates whether or not the
20 copyright restriction indicated by the second copyright-related information matches the copyright restriction indicated by the first copyright-related information of the first content information which is linked to the second content information by the link information.

25 [2] The information recording medium according to Claim 1,

wherein management information for managing the information recording medium is included in an inner peripheral portion of the recording medium, and

the management information includes first position
30 information indicating a storage position of the first management information and second position information indicating a storage position of the second management information.

[3] The information recording medium according to Claim 1,
wherein the second content information is compressed
content information.

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[4] The information recording medium according to Claim 1,
wherein the first content information is stored in a
predetermined area in a data block having a predetermined byte
length.

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[5] The information recording medium according to Claim 4,
wherein, in the case where a data size of the first content
information is bigger than a size of a predetermined area in the data
block, the first content information is stored throughout plural data
15 blocks.

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[6] The information recording medium according to Claim 5,
wherein the data blocks include an area for storing first
copyright-related information corresponding to the first content
20 information.

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[7] The information recording medium according to Claim 1,
wherein the second management information is included in a
management file for managing second content information of the
25 second recording area,

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the following is stored in the management file: a name of a
file which stores the second content information of the second
recording medium; second copyright-related information of the
second content information corresponding to the file name; and a
30 copyright-compliant flag.

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[8] The information recording apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the respective first content information and second content information are the same in contents but different in the number of channels.

5 [9] The information recording medium according to Claim 1,
wherein the respective first content information and second content information are the same in contents but different in sampling frequencies.

10 [10] The information recording medium according to Claim 1,
wherein content information is audio data.

[11] The information recording medium according to Claim 1,
wherein a copyright restriction on the first content
15 information is a restriction on the available number of copy times of the first content information, and
a copyright restriction on the second content information is a restriction on the available number of copy times of the second content information.

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[12] An information processing apparatus for recording or
playing back an information recording medium having a first
recording area and a second recording area,
wherein, the followings are recorded in the first recording
25 area: first content information; first management information concerning handling of the first content information; and first copyright-related information for placing a copyright restriction on the first content information, and
the followings are recorded in the second recording area:
30 second content information; and second management information including second copyright-related information for placing a copyright restriction on the second content information,

the respective first content information and second content information are the same in contents but different in attributes,

the second management information includes: link information indicating a relationship between the first content information and the second content information; and a copyright-compliant flag, and

the copyright-compliant flag indicates whether or not (a) a copyright restriction indicated by the second copyright-related information matches (b) a copyright restriction indicated by the first copyright-related information of the first content information which is linked to the second content information by the link information,

wherein said information processing apparatus comprises:

a reading-out unit operable to read out information of the information recording medium; and

an information processing unit operable to process the information read out by said reading-out unit,

said information processing unit is operable to output the second content information according to first copyright-related information, in the case where the copyright-compliant flag indicates that (a) recording and playback restrictions indicated by the second copyright-related information match (b) recording and playback restrictions indicated by the first copyright-related information of the first content information which is linked to the second content information by the link information.

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[13] The information recording apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the first copyright-related information and the second copyright-related information include information for restricting an available number of copy times of the respectively corresponding first content information and second content information,

said information processing unit includes a copy unit operable

to copy the read one of first content information and second content information,

said information processing apparatus further comprises

5 a memory unit operable to hold a copy count of the read one of first content information and second content information recorded in the information recording medium,

the copy count in said memory unit is incremented by 1, each time one of the first content information and the second content information is copied by said copy unit, and

10 copying of the first content information and the second content information is prohibited after the copy count recorded in said recording unit amounts to the available number of copy times indicated by the first copyright-related information.

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